

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, and 21, cancel claims 22-33, and add claims 34-37 as follows. Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1. (Currently Amended) A method in a computer system for providing computer equipment to a customer, comprising:

updating a database to indicate a lease of at least one computer component from a component vendor, the lease providing for an assembler to receive the leased computer component from the vendor and pay the vendor a periodic vendor payment;

receiving an indication of an available piece of the computer equipment that is assembled by the assembler with the leased computer component;

updating a database to indicate a lease of the assembled computer equipment from the assembler to the customer in return for a payment from the customer corresponding at least in part to a length of time the customer leases the computer equipment;

receiving an indication from the customer that the lease is voluntarily terminated after an arbitrary, customer-selected time period has elapsed, without incurring a penalty to the customer; and

updating the database to indicate that the computer equipment is received back from the customer.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the customer is a first customer and the payment is a first customer payment, and wherein the method further comprises updating the database to indicate sale of the computer equipment to a second customer, or lease of the computer equipment to the second customer by providing the computer equipment to the second customer and receiving a second customer payment corresponding at least in part to the length of time the second customer leases the computer equipment.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
indicating a commitment to leasing a selected number of computer components
from ~~a-the~~ component vendor;
~~updating the database to indicate leasing at least one of the computer components from the vendor by receiving the computer component from the vendor and paying the vendor at predetermined intervals wherein the periodic vendor payment corresponding corresponds to the cost of the computer component multiplied by an interest rate factor and divided by a total number of predetermined intervals that elapse until the estimated value of the component is zero; and~~
updating the database to indicate payment of the periodic vendor payment after the total number of predetermined intervals has elapsed.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising
updating the database to indicate purchasing the at least one component from the vendor and selling or leasing the computer equipment to another customer by providing the computer equipment to the another customer and receiving payments from the another customer while continuing to pay the vendor the periodic vendor payment.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising: wherein indicating leasing of at least one component of the computer equipment from a vendor by receiving the at least one component from the vendor and paying the vendor at predetermined intervals athe~~ periodic vendor payment corresponding ~~corresponds~~ to the cost of the at least one component multiplied by an interest rate factor and divided by a number of time intervals that elapse until an estimated value of the at least one component is zero; and wherein the method further comprises
indicating purchasing the at least one component from the vendor for a purchase amount after a selected number of time intervals have passed and after paying a selected number of periodic vendor payments, the purchase

amount corresponding to a remaining value of the at least one component.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising: wherein indicating leasing of at least one component of the computer equipment from the vendor by receiving the at least one component from the vendor and paying the vendor at predetermined intervals a~~the periodic vendor payment ~~corresponding corresponds~~ to the cost of the at least one component multiplied by an interest rate factor and divided by a number of time intervals that elapse until the value of the at least one component is zero; and wherein the method further comprises indicating continuing to lease the at least one components and pay the vendor the periodic vendor payment after the number of time intervals has passed.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein updating a database to indicate a lease of the computer equipment includes indicating receipt from the customer of a plurality of periodic payments having equal values.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein updating a database to indicate a lease of the computer equipment includes indicating receipt from the customer a plurality of periodic payments with each successive payment being less than the preceding payment.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising: indicating refurbishing of at least one component of the computer equipment after receiving the computer equipment back from the customer; and indicating transmission of the computer equipment with the refurbished at least one component to another customer.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising indicating payment of an interest fee for at least one computer component.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for providing computer equipment to a customer, comprising:

leasing at least one component of the computer equipment from a vendor by receiving the leased at least one component from the vendor and without paying the vendor a periodic vendor payment full value of the leased component;
paying the vendor a number of periodic vendor payments, each of the periodic vendor payments being less than the full value of the leased component;
installing the leased at least one component in the computer equipment; and
leasing the computer equipment having the leased component installed to a customer in return for payment from the customer corresponding at least in part to the length of time the customer leases the computer equipment.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the customer is a first customer and the payment is a first customer payment, and wherein the method further comprises selling the computer equipment to a second customer, or leasing the computer equipment to the second customer by providing the computer equipment to the second customer and receiving a second customer payment corresponding at least in part to the length of time the second customer leases the computer equipment.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
receiving an indication from the customer that the computer equipment lease is terminated after an arbitrary, customer-selected time period has elapsed, without incurring a penalty to the customer; and
receiving the computer equipment of the terminated lease back from the customer.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising:
ceasing to receive payment from the customer upon termination of the computer
equipment lease; and
ceasing to pay the vendor for the computer component installed in the returned
computer equipment after the payment from the customer ceases.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein installing the component in the
computer equipment includes installing the at least one component in a personal
computer, notebook computer or server.

16. (Currently Amended) A method in a computer system for providing
computer equipment to a customer, comprising:
updating a database to indicate that at least one component of the computer
equipment is leased from a vendor, the lease including receiving the at
least one component from the vendor, installing the leased component in
the computer equipment, and paying the vendor a periodic vendor
payment;
receiving an indication that the leased at least one component is installed in the
computer equipment;
updating a database to indicate that the computer equipment is leased to a
customer in return for a payment from the customer corresponding at
least in part to a length of time the customer leases the computer
equipment; and
updating a database to indicate that the computer equipment is received back
from the customer and the lease with the customer is voluntarily
terminated after an arbitrary, customer-selected period of time has
elapsed without penalty to the customer.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising
updating a database to indicate continued payments to the vendor for the component
after having paid the vendor a total amount for the component that is at least equal to

~~an initial value a full value~~ of the component, while leasing the computer equipment to the customer or another customer.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the customer is a first customer and the payment is a first customer payment, and wherein the method further comprises updating a database to indicate a sale of the computer equipment to a second customer, or a lease of the computer equipment to the second customer by providing the computer equipment to the second customer and receiving a second customer payment corresponding at least in part to the length of time the second customer leases the computer equipment.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for providing computer equipment to customers, comprising:

leasing at least one component of the computer equipment from a vendor by receiving the at least one component from the vendor and paying the vendor a periodic vendor payment;

assembling the computer equipment by installing the leased at least one component into the computer equipment;

leasing the assembled computer equipment to a first customer by providing the computer equipment to the first customer and receiving a first customer payment corresponding at least in part to a length of time the computer equipment is leased by the first customer;

receiving the leased computer equipment back from the first customer after an arbitrary customer-selected period of time has elapsed without penalty to the customer;

ceasing to receive the first customer payment after the computer equipment is received back from the first customer;

purchasing the at least one component from the vendor after the computer equipment is received back from the first customer;

selling the computer equipment to a second customer, or leasing the computer equipment to the second customer by providing the received computer

equipment to the second customer and receiving a second customer payment corresponding to a length of time the computer equipment is leased by the second customer while continuing to pay the vendor the periodic vendor payment.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the at least one component is a component of a personal computer and installing the at least one component includes installing the component in a personal computer, notebook computer or server.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising:
ceasing to pay the vendor the periodic vendor payment for the leased at least one component during a period when the computer equipment is not leased or sold to a customer.

22-33. (Canceled).

34. (New) A system for providing computer equipment to a customer, the system comprising a computer-readable medium containing instructions that cause the system to perform a method comprising –

updating a first database to indicate a lease of at least one computer component from a vendor, the lease providing for an assembler to receive the leased computer component from the vendor and pay the vendor a periodic vendor payment;

receiving an indication of an available piece of the computer equipment that is assembled by the assembler with the leased computer component; and updating a second database to indicate a lease of the assembled computer equipment from the assembler to the customer in return for a payment from the customer corresponding at least in part to a length of time the customer leases the computer equipment.

35. (New) The system of claim 34 , wherein the method further comprises:
receiving an indication from the customer that the computer equipment lease is
terminated after an arbitrary, customer-selected time period has elapsed,
without incurring a penalty to the customer; and
updating the second database to indicate that the computer equipment is
received back from the customer.
36. (New) The system of claim 34, wherein the method further comprises:
updating the second database to indicate that payment from the customer is
ceased upon termination of the computer equipment lease; and
updating the first database indicate ceasing to pay the vendor for the computer
component installed in the returned computer equipment after the
payment from the customer is ceased.
37. (New) The system of claim 34 wherein installing the component in the
computer equipment includes installing the component in a personal computer,
notebook computer or server.